and water is added to the reaction mixture during the reaction.

24. (Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the reaction mixture is dosed with a di-ether which corresponds to the by-product di-ether formed in situ during the reaction from the reactant olefin which di-ether is recovered and recycled to the reaction mixture [amount of a di-ether co-fed is suitably in the range from 1 to 6 mole % based on the total reaction mixture comprising the olefin, the aliphatic carboxylic acid, water and di-ether].

25. (Amended) A process according to claim 24 wherein the amount of di-ether recycled is in the range from 1 to 6 mole percent based on the total reaction mixture comprising the olefin, the aliphatic carboxylic acid, water and di-ether [di-ether corresponds to the by-product di-ether formed *in situ* during the reaction from the reactant olefin which is recovered and is recycled to the reaction mixture].

REMARKS

Re-examination of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Prior to beginning a substantive response, Applicants wish to extend their gratitude to Examiner Shippen for granting the interview of January 13, 1998.